

was imposed. In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-8.

The restriction requirement is traversed because the invention set out by the claims in Groups I, II, and III are clearly related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of any Group would be relevant to the examination of the other Groups and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. 121.

Reconsideration of the election requirement imposed under 35 U.S.C. § 121 is respectfully requested.


An election between Species A as shown in Figures 1-6, Species B as shown in Figures 7 and 8, and Species C as shown in Figures 9-11 was imposed. In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Species A as shown in Figures 1-6. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that at least Claims 1-18 and 20 are readable on the figures of Species A.

The requirement for election is traversed because Species A, B, and C are clearly related. Specifically, Applicants submit that Species A is shown in the all of the drawings identified as belonging to Species B and C. Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 9, 13, and 20 are generic and readable on Species A, Species B, and Species C. Also, Applicants respectfully submit that a thorough search and examination of Species B and Species C would be relevant to the examination of Species A, and would not be a serious burden on the examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. 121.

For the reasons set forth above, reconsideration of the restriction and election requirements are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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